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C & R
AMCONGENERAL
RIO DE JANEIRO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, BR
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPOSITION GROUPS PLAN TO ISSUE

SUMMARY: A COALITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPOSITION GROUPS PLANS TO ISSUE A MANIFESTO CRITICISING THE GOVERNMENT'S METHODS IN CAPTURING COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRAZIL MEMBERS (PC DO B). THE DOCUMENT WILL ALSO RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE WAY IN WHICH JOAO BAPTISTA DRUMOND DIED. THE IMMEDIATE GOAL OF THE MANIFESTO IS TO ATTEMPT TO FORCE THE GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE OFFICIALLY THE NAMES OF THE DETAINEES SO THAT PUBLIC PRESSURE CAN BE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON THEIR TREATMENT. BUT IT WILL ALSO HAVE THE EFFECT OF RAISING PUBLICLY QUESTIONS ABOUT DRUMOND'S DEATH WHILE UNDERGOING ARMY QUESTIONING, AND THE REGIME'S CONTROL OVER ITS SECURITY APPARATUS.

1. A COALITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPOSITION GROUPS PLANS TO ISSUE A "MANIFESTO" CRITICISING THE WAY IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS HANDLED THE CAPTURE AND DETENTION OF COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRAZIL (PC DO B) MEMBERS. THE MANIFESTO REPORTEDLY WILL ALSO RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE WAY IN WHICH JOAO BAPTISTA FRANCO DRUMOND DIED. THE COALITION IS COMPOSED OF THE COMMISSION ON JUSTICE AND PEACE, WHICH OPERATES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAO PAULO, THE BRAZILIAN PRESS ASSOCIATION (ABI), THE BRAZILIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (OAB), AND LAWYERS FOR THE DETAINEES. THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION ON JUSTICE AND PEACE, PROF. DALMO DALLARI, TOLD POL OFF THAT THE COMMISSION WAS RELUCTANT TO TAKE THE LEAD IN INVESTIGATING THE HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECTS OF THE PC DO B CASE SINCE THE CHURCH ALREADY HAS ENOUGH PROBLEMS WITH THE GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO FEDERAL DEPUTY AIRTON SOARES, WHOSE FIRM REPRESENTS THREE OF THE DETAINEES, CARDINAL ARNS IS WILLING TO PRESS FOR PUBLICATION OF THE MANIFESTO AS LONG AS THERE IS BROAD SUPPORT FOR IT. SOARES SAID THAT THE OAB IS THE ONLY GROUP WHICH HAS NOT YET APPROVED THE TEXT. THE IMMEDIATE GOAL OF THE MANIFESTO IS TO FORCE THE ARMY TO REVEAL OFFICIALLY THE NAMES OF THOSE PERSONS DETAINED SO THAT OUTSIDE PRESSURE CAN BE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON THEIR TREATMENT.

2. SOARES BELIEVES THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSONS WERE ARRESTED: MAURICIO GRABOIS, THE SONE OF THE FORMER PC DO B LEADER WHO WAS KILLED IN 1972; JOAO AMAZONAS, FORMER DEPUTY AND ONE TO TOP PC DO B LEADERS; DR. JOAO RENATO RABELLO PC DO B LEADER IN BAHIA; ALDO SILVA ARANTES; MAURICIO (LNU), A STUDENT LEADER. O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO NOTED THE ARREST OF AL DO SILVA ARANTES ON DECEMBER 18, BECAUSE HIS LAWYERS SENT A NOTE TO MILITARY COURT ON DECEMBER 17 INQUIRING WHETHER HIS DETENTION WAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW, WHETHER HE WAS RECEIVING MEDICATION (ARANTES IS EPILEPTIC) AND DEMANDING TO SEE HIM. NEITHER THE MILITARY NOR THE POLICE HAVE RESPONDED TO THE REQUEST NOR WILL EITHER TALK TO THE LAWYERS. O ESTADO PUBLISHED ON DECEMBER 23 THE NAMES OF THREE ADDITIONAL PERSONS REPORTEDLY UNDER ARREST. THEY ARE: DUARTE PACHECO LAGO PEREIRA, FOUNDER OF POPULAR ACTION (AP) IN 1962; ELZA MONERAT; AND HAROLDO RODRIGUES LIMA, A LEADER OF THE PC DO B IN SAO PAULO. LIMA, HOWEVER, IS ALSO REPORTED "MISSING" BY SECURITY OFFICIALS. SOARES STATED THAT HE IS THE SOURCE OF THE O ESTADO REPORT.

